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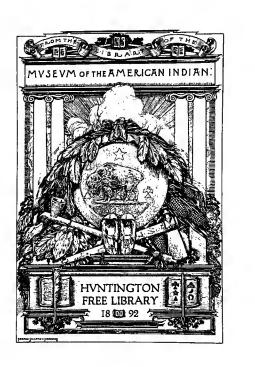
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NOTES ON THE CHATINO LANGUAGE OF MEXICO

By FRANZ BOAS

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NOTES ON THE CHATINO LANGUAGE OF MEXICO

By FRANZ BOAS

7HILE engaged in an investigation of the Mexican dialect of Pochutla, Oaxaca, Mexico, for the International School of American Archæology and Ethnology, I had the opportunity to spend a few hours with a Chatino, and collected a little material which may be of interest, because it shows definitely that Chatino is a remote branch of the Zapotecan family and partakes of the very remarkable phonetics of that group of languages. I have not sufficient material to elucidate any one point of the phonetics or morphology of the language fully, and therefore must confine myself to a few disconnected remarks.

The language is spoken only in the district of Juquila. It is called by the people themselves Častinyon. It is spoken, according to my informant, Ezéquiel Vásquez, in the following villages:1

FIRST DIALECT

	,	41	
•	luc	1771	2
	ıuι	ıuı	ıα

^{*}Yaitenec

Teotepec

*Cnixtla

*Tiltepec

*Nopala

*San Gabriel Mixtepec

*Lachao (San Juan)

*Yolotepec (Santa María Yolotepec)

*Mialtepec (Santa María)

*Ixpantepec (San Francisco)

*Quiahije (San Juan)

*Ixtapan (Santa María)

*Zacatepec

*Panixtlahuaca (San Miguel)

Tepenixtlahuaca

SECOND DIALECT

Tataltepec

THIRD DIALECT

*Tlapanalquiahuil

Zenzontepec

Tlacotepec

^{*}Temaxcaltepec

In the lists of places I follow the orthography of Dr Antonio Peñafiel, División Territorial de la República Mexicana, México, Secretaría de Fomento, 1904.

TUXTLAHUACA

According to Eutimio Perez,¹ who bases his statements on the reports of the priests of the various villages, Chatino is spoken in the districts of Juquila, Juxtlahuaca, Teojomulco, and Yaitepec, in the following villages:

JUQUILA

	-
*San Miguel Panixtlahuaca	Apaluapan
*Santa María Ixtapan	San Martín
*San Juan Quiahije	San Pedro
*San Francisco Ixpantepec	Santiago Jicayan
*Santa María Mialtepec	San Miguel Elotepec
*Santa María Yolotepec	San Cristóbal
*San Juan Lachao	San Juan
San Pedro Juchatengo	
Trapiche de Santa Ana	
Trapiche de Soledad	
Теојомисо	YAITEPEC
San Lorenzo	*Nopala
Santiago	*Cuixtla
Santiago Minas	*Tiltepec
San Jacinto (Tlacotepec?)	*San Gabriel (Mixtepec)
Santa María	San Pedro
*Tlapanalquiahuil	*Tamaxcaltepec
	*Yaitepec
	*Zacatepec

The villages of the two lists that could be ascertained as identical are marked with asterisks.

The system of vowels of the Chatino is very rich. Every vowel is pronounced either with a full oral breath or with nasal breath with accompanying palato-lingual stricture, which produces a weak nasal twang. It closes with a free escape of breath or with a glottal stop. Furthermore, the vowels are long and short. It seems that e and o are always open. All these vowels have one of three pitch accents—either the low pitch, which is left here without diacritical mark; or the raised pitch, which I have indicated by `; or, finally, the

¹ Recuerdos Historicos del Episcopado Oaxaqueño, Oaxaca, 1888.

rising pitch, which I have indicated by ~. We have, therefore, a system of vowels which may be illustrated by the following scheme:

This series has been observed partially for the a, e, i, o, u series, but it is possible that the nasalized a group does not occur.

Besides these, vowels with whispered intonation occur, which are indicated here by superior position.

The system of consonants is marked by the rarity of labials. All voiced stops, particularly in initial position, tend to begin with the corresponding voiced nasal. The labial b has been found only in the exclusive first person plural pronoun "bare'. Long consonants (expressed here by :) are quite frequent.

	Sto	OPS	CONTIN.	Affric.	Nasals	TRILI	LA:	TERALS
	Voiced	Unvoiced	Unvoiced	Unvoiced	Voiced	Voiced	Voiced	Unvoiced
Labials	b		_	_	_	_	_	— .
Dentals	d	t	s	š, č	n	r	ı	į
Palatized dentals	d·	t·	_	_	n.	_	_	l·
Palatals	g	k	æ	_	_	_	_	
Labialized palata	ls gw	kw	_	_	_	_	_	-
Palatized palatal	s g·	k٠	x.	_	_	_	_	_
	y, w,	h						

All the words in my list terminate in vowels.

The pronominal forms include singular and plural; and in the plural, inclusive and exclusive. The personal pronouns are in Chatino and Zapotec of Oaxaca.

	CHATINO	ZAPOTEC
I	na*	na*
thou	$n^{u}u^{n'}i^{c}$	lii
he	nŭkwa"	la'we
we, incl.	nā'	la ^e no
we, excl.	mbare"	laºdo
ye	wan'	la²to
they	ne²kwa' [*]	$la^{2}kawe$

Possessive and predicative forms of the singular and inclusive plural are derived from the stem by modifications of the terminal vowel. The third person has the low pitch; the second person, raised pitch; the first person singular has the vowel nasalized, with low pitch; the inclusive, the vowel long and nasalized, with rising pitch. The terminal vowel always retains its quality as breathed or stopped vowel. The exclusive plural has the vowel long, with raised pitch and the ending -wa; the second person plural, the vowel long, with deep pitch and the ending -swan; the third person plural, the same kind of vowel and the ending -nes.

The nasalization of the first person changes a to o^n .

The pronouns may be emphasized by repetition of the independent pronoun, following the stem. In this case the exclusive takes the ending -re, the third person plural -kwa, thus completing the respective pronominal forms.

Examples of the possessive are the following:

	wife	father	brother	wife	heart	hand	house
my	$x^{.o}\bar{o}^{n!}$ (na^{8})	stīn*	$t^{a8}o^{n/2}$	kulyonn	$tg \cdot i^{n!}$	yo ⁿ²	naa''ki''
thy	$x \cdot o \partial^{n^*} (n^u u^{n'} i)$	stì*	ta8∙à′¹	kulyò"	tg·ì¹	уà°	naa''kì'
his	x.oon' (nukwa')	sti [*]	$t^{a2}a'$	kuļyo'	tg-i	ya ^e	naa ^{rt} ki ^t
our incl.	$x \sim \tilde{o}^{n'} (na')$	stīn	$t^{o8}ar{ar{o}}^{n^{q}}$	kulyō"'	$tg\overline{i}^{n^{q}}$	$y\tilde{\tilde{o}}^{nl}$	naa''ki''
our excl.	.x∙°∂̇̀ ^{n\} wa(re)	sti'wa'	tª⁵′ā̀wa'	kulyð'wa'	tg∙ầwa'	yà²wa'	naa''kīwa'
your	$x^{.o}\bar{o}^{n/2}wa^{n^2}$	stī'²wa*	t^{a} \bar{a}' a' wa^{n}	kulyō'²wa"	tg·i'8wa"	yā'swan'	naa''kī!wa*'
their	$x^{.o}\bar{o}^nne^{\varrho}$ (kwa)		$t^a \bar{a}' n e^a$				naa"kine ²

Examples of verbs are the following:

	sick	good	strong	to sit down	to see1	to speak	to go
I '	$t^{i}\bar{t}^{n!}$	Stwen!	tg-ilon'	t*kwo**	naann	kwi ^{ne}	V°ont
thou	tQ^{ϵ}	šewė"	tg·ilà'	tokwa"	nad'	kwi*	γà ^ε
he	$t^{i}i^{c}$	srwe'	tg·ila'	takwa"	naa'	$kwi^{\mathfrak{e}}$	ya'
we incl.	$t^{i\overline{i}n^{i}}$	š²wē™°	tg - $ilar{ ilde{o}}^{n/t}$	t°kwō̃™	na $\tilde{\bar{a}}^{n'!}$	kw^{2n2}	yỗ ⁿ '
we excl.	t'i'wa'	š*wè'wa'	tg∙il∂'wa°	t°kwà'wa'	naà'wa'	kwì'wa'	yầwa ^t
ye	$t^i\bar{\imath}'^{\epsilon}wa^n$	' Sewē'ewan'	tg·ilā'²wan'	$t^akw\bar{a}'^2wa^{n^2}$	$na\bar{a}'^2wa^{n^4}$	kwī'²wan'	yā'²wan¹
they	tis'net	š*wē'ne*	tg·ilā'ne³	t°kwā'ne²	naā'ne³	kwi' ^e ne ^e	yā'ne*

¹ Here a does not change to o.

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There is another form of the possessive, of which the following are examples.

na²yo*'	mine (my property)	na⁵yō̃*′°	ours, incl.
na ² 7"	thine	$na^{\imath}\hat{i}^{n}wa^{\imath}$	ours, excl.
$na^{\epsilon_i n'^{\epsilon_i}}$	his	$na^{\mathfrak{r}}i^{n'\mathfrak{s}}wa^{\mathfrak{s}'}$	yours
		$na^{\mathbf{t}}\bar{\imath}^{n\prime}ne^{\mathbf{t}}$	theirs

It will be noticed that the only differences are in the first person singular and in the inclusive.

I have, according to the same type, the following nouns expressing parts of the body:

my meat, my flesh
my hair
my blood
my bone
my skin

This form is evidently identical with that of the object of the transitive verb, as is suggested by the following examples:

```
koho'i (nukwa') ion'' he will kill me sayoho'i (nukwa') iōn'' he will kill us, incl.
koho'i (nukwa') in' he will kill thee sayoho'i (nukwa') inbare' he will kill us, excl.
sayoho'i in' in' ishall kill thee sayoho'i (nukwa') invaa'n' he will kill you
sayoho'i (nukwa') in' he will kill him sayoho'i (nukwa') innevakwa'' he will kill them
```

In the two transitive verbs ${}^{e}u'i$ to have, ho'i to kill, the first persons have the first vowel nasalized, not the terminal -i.

In the compound verbs $ku^{\epsilon}ni'$ to make some one eat $t^{i}ik^{k}t\partial^{n'\epsilon}$ my nail is sore, only the terminal stem is inflected.

In the verb, classes may be distinguished like those of the Zapotec. I found the following prefixes of tenses:

		Present	Past	FUTURE (to go to—)	FUTURE (to come to —)
$da^{\mathfrak{t}}$	to do, to be	n-	nga-	ša–	
$tn \cdot o^{n!}$	to make	$di\!-\!$	ga-	ša-, ku-	_
5ºwe'	good	_	nga-	?	ka-
t·ka'	well		gwa n	?	?

naā'ti ^e	weak	(nt ga-)	ngu-		ka-
tn:yon2	tired	$(nl \cdot ga -)$	gwa ngwa	_	ka-
tgila'	strong, hard	$(nt \cdot ga -)$	ngwa	_	ka-
(nga)ta'	black		ngwa	_	ka -
ko	dirty	_	ngwa-	_	ka-, ntgka-
l°e™	heavy	_	ngwa-		ka-
$kwo^{n^{t}}$	high	_	7	_	ka-
$t^{i}i^{k}$	sick		ngwa-	_	ka-
hat	to sleep	l-	gwayi-	šay ∸	ka-
Ìō¹	to send	nd-	gwa-, nga-	ša-	
$l^ix \cdot i^i$	it is lacking		ngu	ša-, ku-	_
tokwa*	to be seated	n-	?	?, ku-	_
naar	to see	?	gwa-	ša-, ku-	<u>:</u>
ot.	to drink	nd-	7	?, ko-	_
nat	to hear	nd-	?	šay-	_
kwi ^z	to speak	nd-	gwayi-	say-	
ku^{ϵ}	to eat	nd-	gwayi_	šay'-	
kwi	to hang	nd-	ž	?	
lŏkwe ⁿ ''	to tremble	nd-	g-	?	
ha'	to die	ndi-	3	_	ka-
•			nkhwi he is d	ea d	
ka'ti	to wish	nd -	?	?	?
škwa'	to lie down	n-	gwan-	ša-, ka-	_
a*	to go	?	y'-, y-	ša-, š-	—(see p. 81)
$e_{ti'i}$	to have	nd-	y-	?	7
ho'i	to kill (see: to die)	?	y -	šayi-, ko-	

Some adjectives (only those designating colors?) have the prefix ng-:

ngata'	black	ngªà¹	red
ngatèn'	white	ngusit	vellow

The prefix nt ga- entered in the preceding list with some adjectives means "to become."

VOCABULARY

all men kiliga'²k·yu'	blood tine (Zap. rin)
alligator kwi²na"	bone $tx \cdot u^n$ (Zap. $n \neq i' ta$)
animal nint	boy čů' (Zap. čaap')
arm, shoulder skunt	brain tx·kwakin'
banana x·o²wa'	to break (stick breaks) kuča
to be nda'	broom kwà'
black, I am ngaton' (Zap. naga's)	brother $t^{ab}a$ (see also: sister)

```
care, take-l n·a*ā'tu"
                                                to hear na
 Chatino ča<sup>8</sup>tinvo<sup>n/</sup>
                                                heart tg·i
 church lā'
                                                heavy t^ee^n (Zap. na'an)
 corn, Indian nškwa<sup>g</sup> (Zap. cūuba<sup>g</sup>)
                                                hen ktu'
 coyote voo" (horrowed from Zap. ve'u?) - laying ktu'tna"
 deer kwin o' (Zap. vijī'n)
                                                - hens kiu'kŭie'
 to defecate Eùns
                                                high kwont
 to die ha'
                                                house naa'' (Zap. y\bar{u}^u; l\bar{i}ja^{\varrho} my —)
 dirty ku8

    naà''ki' house in which one lives

 dog cŭni'e (Zap. vūik')
                                                infant kwi<sup>2</sup> (Zap. vado'•)
 to drink o'
                                                to kill (yo)ho'i see: to die ha' (Zap.
 ear, my n \bar{c} g o^{n^{\xi}} (Zap. dia' \gamma a^{\xi}, my —)
 to eat ku'
                                                knife cil'u' (borrowed from Spanish)
   to make some one eat kueni"
                                                to be lacking l'x i'
 extended ča, in čal·u', extended soil,
                                                land y\tilde{u}' (Zap. yu')
      i. e. country.
                                                leaf l:ka² (Zap. valda'k')
 eye, my (ki)lon' (Zap. loo)
                                                to lie down $kwa'
   face, my tolonic (Zap. loo)
                                                light of weight lsa
father su'
                                                to live ki
female k·es
                                                to be lost guna's
   female animal nint k.es
                                                to make tn.on'
finger cini yas, i. e., fingers of hand (Zap. male kila's
     bikwī'ni)
                                                  male animals nint kila't
                                               man kisyu' (Zap. nig-i'u)
   toes cini kiya'e, i. e. fingers of foot
fire kī8
                                               many houses ki'nda' nad"
fish kwila" (Zap. mbel, velt')
                                               meat kwina's
flesh, meat kwina' (Zap. be'là)
                                               message, word tinyon"
flower k\bar{e}^{\epsilon} (Zap. y\bar{\imath}^{os}, Tehuano ng\cdot i\bar{e}^{s})
                                               moon kos (Zap. veot)
fog kö'
                                               mouse tinyon's (Zap. mbisi'n a)
food caent·ku" (see: to eat ku')
                                               mouth, my tu²won' (Zap. ru'a² my)
foot (ki)ya's (Zap. nia' my—)
                                               nail (of finger or toe), my (ki)t\partial^{n/2}
girl cgwa8
                                               neck ini"
to give da'
                                               no a'
to go a'
                                               nose sinye" (Zap. cīini, cīi)
good 5ºwe
                                               numerals:
hair, my (ki)\check{c}o^{n/2} (Zap. y\check{i}\check{c}')
                                                   I ska' (Zap. for flat objects čaga)
  hair of my head kičon's kè'
                                                   2 tkwa' (Zap. t·ōρ')
hand ya^{i} (Zap. na'ya^{i}, my —)
                                                   3 šuna' (Zap. čon:a)
to hang ndokwi
                                                  4 hakwa' (Zap. tap')
                                                   5 ka<sup>8</sup>yu' (Zap. γa<sup>8</sup>yu)
to have y'u'i, future kaha"
head ke' (Zap. ig·a'' mý —)
                                                  6 sŭkwa" (Zap. çō°p')1
```

 $^{^{1}}c$ is c with medial palatal stricture, resulting in the phonetic impression of a c and accompanying medial palatal continuant, as in Mexican x.

```
soil lu' (Zap. k·čil·u' land)
    7 kati' (Zap. yaa'č)
                                              son sin:ye'<sup>2</sup> (Zap.Ingā'na my—)
     8 sunu's (Zap. con:)
                                              daughter sin:ye"sk"nad" i. e. fe-
    9 ka' (Zap. γa<sup>8</sup>)
   10 ti' (Zap. či')
                                                 male son
   II tička'
                                           soon bera (Spanish ora)
   I2 titx:kwa'
                                            sour Eû8
   13 tičuna'
                                           to speak kwi2
                                            to stand ndunt
   14 tix akwa'
   15 ti²yun' (Zap. činyu)
                                            star kwilakwi"
   16 ti²yuncka'
                                            stick x \cdot k d' (Zap. y \bar{a} g')
   17 ti²yunčkwa'
                                           stone ke' (Zap. g-1'e)
                                           strong tgila"
   18 ti<sup>2</sup>yu<sup>n</sup>čuna'
   19 tilyunx akwa'
                                           sugar cane lx ga (see: stick)
   20 kala' (Zap. kale)
                                           sun kuča' (Zap. gubī'oč)
Patricio ti'ču (first syllable probably
                                           to talk ča? (ča?tinyon" Chatino language,
                                                perhaps from čae to talk, tinyo'n'e
     dropped out on account of rarity
                                                words)
     of labials)
                                           tejón (?) tiču'8
people ne8
  assembly of men netk·u'
                                           then kwà
  assembly of women negkunad'
                                           tired in one (Zap. njaya)
pineapple Eu?
                                           to int
prairie, plain nºtin
                                           tomb kwā
property (na?) in"
                                           tongue lše8
prostitute koe's
                                           tooth leya'
rain t.o.
                                           to tremble lökwen't
red (nga)à
                                           tzopilote cu'
reverential n: that lady or gentleman very tsaa"
rooster lakwe'
                                           water tia" (Zap. ni'osa)
sea tŭxoo'
                                           weak naa"ti* (person)
to see naa" (Zap. gwe)
                                              (ngu)naa' (objects)
to send lot
                                           well t·ka'
sick tii', tatii"
                                           white (nga)tèn' (Zap. nigī'č)
sickness k·ča' (Zap. k°cu)
                                           wife kul·o'
sister, my tolona's nokunadn', i. e. my
                                           - x.00n/
     female brother
                                           wind kwenē" (Zap. mbī)
to sit tokwa"
                                           to wish ka'ti'
skin (ki)hi"
                                           with loo' (treated as noun)
to sleep (y')ha?
                                           wolf kwà?
sleepiness skalà'
                                           woman kunaàn' (Zap. ngū'nac)
snake kwina" (Zap. ve'li', Tehuano yellow (ng") β' (Zap. naγa' če)
    mbe2nda)
```

Following is a short text with interlinear translation:

Šon ngatnon'' ndio'si' čal'u'' ngadu''n:i ča⁸ nd·ku'' in kiliga'⁸
When made God the world he gave to eat to every (reverence)

nine nisu'i čal·u'', PERO ngulix·i's nekl'syu''. Bra kon's nekl'syu''
animal had the world, but was absent the man. Then when the man
(existing in) (Spanish) (Sp. ora)

ya' x·kwi²ne'[§] l<u>E</u>o'ndio'si' ča[§] k^uda''n:i ča[§] nd·ku'' iⁿne'[§], ndio'si' went to speak with God that he should give to eat to them. God (reverence)

bra ko'''s ngalō'' tinyo''' ča'' nek\b''yu'' ku'ne's lo' ča''sl'u'.
then sent the order that man should eat in this world

taganeg.

his brothers.

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